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Nashville District

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Photo by Bill Peoples

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Robert Nesbitt, electrician, Wheeler Lock, replaces a fan motor on an air conditioner/heater unit from the upper control stand.

DistrictDigest

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Thoughts From The Trail...



Hello Nashville! Well, the District team is off and running (no pun intended) in the new millennium. As I made site visits in January and early February, I continued to be impressed by all that our Nashville team is accomplishing.

My first trip of the New Year took me (along with Mike Ensich) to our projects at Watts Bar, Fort Loudoun, Melton Hill, Wolf Creek, and Laurel. As usual, I was impressed with the professionalism of the staffs and how well they take care of their projects. Jim Byrd's team at Fort Loudoun had some excitement last month when a tow caught fire just upstream of the lock. Up at Melton Hill, Bobby Benson almost single-handedly continues to keep the lock functioning—truly impressive. We also had the chance to visit with the Eastern Regulatory Field Office in Lenoir City and with our folks at Wolf Creek and Laurel. During the trip, Mike and I presented the first Seven-Castle Safety Recognition streamers to Cathy Elliott and her regulatory team, to James Mowery and the Watts Bar team, and to Sammy Alley and the Laurel Power Plant staff. I thought that it was appropriate that we recognize these projects first since they were the first office, lock, and powerhouse to pass the safety evaluation. We also presented them to other offices on our visit, and for the rest of the District, we hope to get the streamers out in the next few weeks.

Our engineering, PM, construction, and contracting staffs rose to the challenge in the past few weeks to ensure the success of several key construction projects—Shelby Bottoms, Drakes Creek, Mousetail Landing, and Shiloh. At Shelby Bottoms, Vechere' Lampley, along with Bill DeBruyn, Barney Davis, and Johnny Wilmore, were able to develop design alternatives that should enable us to complete this project within cost limitations. In the field, Victor Young, David Lloyd, and Dan Riggs have been instrumental in helping trim costs, while ensuring the quality of what's being built. Similarly with Drakes Creek, Wayne Easterling and a supporting cast that included Steve Eli, Tom Swor, Mike Zoccola, and Bill DeBruyn (again) were

able to modify our design so that we could award the contract. And when it came time to award the contract, Jean Todd and Maxie Covington proved to be invaluable as they negotiated our new PD2 contracting system (lots of extra hours spent here so that we could award when promised). Most of the same folks I just mentioned, along with Emily Carr, Don Getty, and LaNita Bonds also played crucial roles in finalizing details so that we could award the Shiloh and Mousetail contracts. Great work by all involved.

As I write this, we have several team members in Nicaragua. Gary House deployed in late-Jan. and was joined in early-Feb. by Luis Noble. Together they, along with an engineer from Huntington District, are developing the work plan for the next 90 days of in-country effort. Getting Luis and Gary into country required some quick turnaround from Brenda Simpson, Connie Hardeman, Ernest Alley, Holly Boland (who also just completed her Castle Block—well done!), and Jim Brady, all of whom had to process several last-minute actions to prepare them for the overseas deployment.

Our regulatory staff continues to quietly go about its business, getting this important mission accomplished with a minimum of fanfare. Each year they process more than 3,000 permit actions, many of which require sensitive negotiations between applicants and other affected parties. Brad Bishop's recent work with UT's request to build a new boathouse on the Tennessee River is an excellent example. Brad worked closely with UT officials, the Knoxville mayor's office, and a local congressman to modify the permit such that it addressed each group's requirements. Similarly, Amy Robinson played a key role in expediting the review of dredging requests to alleviate flooding problems in northern Alabama, earlier this winter. Well done by the entire Regulatory team.

A few other stalwarts from Engineering that deserve mention for their recent contributions include Sue Ferguson, Daphne Jackson, David Hendrix, Mark Flick, and John Hunter. Sue has recently



been busy with the Black Fox environmental project in Murfreesboro; her personal involvement with this project has been the catalyst for keeping it viable. Similarly, Daphne's geotech work on Hamilton County and Cross Creeks has been key to moving the projects to construction. David and Mark have both been busy working with local municipalities, David on Flood Plain Management Services and Mark on GIS flood reduction studies. John Hunter's recent efforts have centered on adapting hydraulic models to real-world situations—something that may prove useful for our work in Nicaragua. Super (and interesting) work by all.

We also have a host of folks who spend much, if not most, of their time supporting other Districts and customers—an example of regionalization and satisfying customer needs in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Our Environmental Restoration (ER) branch provides more than a few examples of this business approach: Lannae Long and Melanie Leslie continue to provide outstanding support to Mobile District on the Anniston Army Depot project while Joe Melnyk is a valued member of Buffalo District's FUSRAP team. We also have folks who provide exceptional support to Ft. Campbell's environmental and construction programs—Scott Heavin, Allyn Allison, Tom McGee, and Buddy Greek, to name a few. My message here is that regional work is an important part of our entire program. Regional projects enable us to work in areas and disciplines where we might not otherwise get the chance and they help us (and our sister Districts) balance our workload. I've asked the *Digest* staff to include more on our regional efforts in future editions.

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DAPS Unveils New Service as it Changes to Meet Customers' Needs

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

The Document Automation & Production Services (DAPS), formerly known as the Defense Automated Printing Service, recently unveiled its Doc Access Online to customers in the Nashville District. This new service gives customers the ability to electronically send documents to DAPS for reproduction, conversion and output via the Internet. It is currently deployed at over 125 of DAPS' 300 locations world-wide.

"All you have to do is click on the DAPS icon and you will be plugged into a new, cost-effective way to shop for the DAPS service you want," said Cathy Simpson, director of the Nashville Office of DAPS. "You can order from us 24 hours-a-day and you'll save time and money. You can also track your jobs on Doc Access."

The software is easily downloaded from the network with instructions in Information Management's Public Folders in Outlook. It can be up and running in minutes, according to Yvonne Hamilton, records manager, Information Management Office.

One recent Doc Access customer is sold on the product. "Doc Access has been very convenient because I was able to take electronic drawings on my workstation and send them directly down to DAPS with a work order in an electronic file," said Kaye Steed, cartographic technician, Real Estate. "They had them printed in almost

the same day. It definitely saved me time. I'm sold on the process."

Doc Access will make it easier for customers to send work to DAPS. Users can obtain a better product since they are sending the original file to the printer instead of printing out a paper original and then copying it, according to Mike McGee, electronic duplicating systems operator, DAPS Nashville Office.

"If you send me that original electronically, you are going to get an original copy which is the best quality you can receive," said McGee. "When people see the quality they are usually pleased."

In April 1992, DAPS took over the printing service for all Department of Defense organizations. The personnel who worked in the Nashville District's Printing Office became DAPS employees which is now part of the Defense Logistics Agency. Since the consolidation, DAPS has also dramatically changed the way it does business, by helping fulfill customer needs.

"The major change for us has been the move to digital," said Simpson. "We also now do large format scanning and can make CD-ROMs locally. With our network of DAPS facilities, customers can get everything DAPS offers with a simple mouse click in Doc Access: from printing, to digital color, to document scanning and conversion. All of these things come about as we work to meet our customers' needs. We continue to contract traditional printing through the Government Printing Office (GPO)."

While DOD agencies are mandated by regulation to use DAPS for printing services, the feeling of true customer service and professionalism abounds, at least in Nashville.

"DOD Components will recognize that DAPS is the DOD's designated focal point for document and drawing conversion and they are to partner with them to identify actions and resources required to accelerate the digital conversion," according to a Department of Defense memorandum.

DAPS supports the District with color copying capability and increasingly saves customers money. With the proliferation of



Rachel Dorris (sitting) contract worker for DAPS and Cathy Simpson, director of the Nashville DAPS, discuss an administrative procedure.

color printers in the District, many people do not realize the cost per copy of a printer versus a copier, according to Hamilton.

"We do color copies with 1-99 are costing 87 cents per copy; 100-199 are 77 cents per copy; and over 200 are 67 cents per copy, and these are all inclusive prices," said Simpson. "For comparison on a HP 2000 series printer, it costs \$1.14 per sheet at 50 percent coverage (meaning the color takes up 50 percent of the page) for full coverage it is \$2.29 per sheet. This is the cost for toner and does not include paper or labor."

In addition to digital color copying, other capabilities of DAPS Nashville include CD-ROM duplication, and large format scanning. DAPS is in the process of purchasing a new digital copier which will add scanning capabilities and other advanced features locally.

"Depending on the needs of our customers, especially the Corps, they can dictate where we move forward in technology," said Simpson. "We brought in the CD-ROM duplication system as a result of a need by the Corps. Some other services, which we can offer are: document conversion, digital document management, digital warehousing and web services. What new technology will really do for us is to increase quality, cut costs and lessen the production time for the customer. We will be doing more things online with the new equipment, instead of doing several things by hand."

The DAPS team consists of: Cathy

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Mike McGee, (left), electronic duplicating systems operator, DAPS Nashville Office and Jerry Morrow, (right), DAPS contractor, oversee one of the workhorses of the office, the Xerox 5690 copier.

EIEC Tackles District Problems Head-on

Story and Photo by Bill Peoples

Like the Tennessee Titans who transformed themselves into a winning team this past year, the Employee Information Enhancement Council (EIEC) transformed itself last year from an information collecting and disseminating committee to a team taking on District problems and meeting challenges.

"We are now more like an unofficial Process Action Team where we are looking at issues to solve, coming up with recommendations, and submitting them for the District to approve," said Connie Hardeman, District security officer and EIEC member. "Also, we are now reporting to the PRB (Project Review Board)."

The EIEC looked at the Employee Survey conducted in 1998 and decided to tackle the challenge of improving field communications and computer availability at field locations.

"We looked at the Employee Survey and one of the issues was communication," said Carol Warren, District executive assistant, and chairman of the EIEC. "Field offices were feeling like they were not receiving the same information as the District Office employees were. We decided to take on this issue. Another item that came up while we were brainstorming on how to proceed was the lack of computers in the field. So we decided to also look at that."

The committee set as its objective to ensure that field employees have the same access, information, and capabilities as district office employees. In order to accomplish this, they looked at many alternatives and came up with six recommendations, which they presented to the Process PRB last November.

The six recommendations were (1) Field offices prepare their own PR&Cs for computers with review by Construction-Operations Division and Information Management; (2) Use web-based training such as CBT systems; (3) Benchmark with other Corps organizations to find out how they are procuring computers for their field sites; (4) Outlook addresses be revisited to ensure that each field office has more than one person online; (5) Develop an e-mail



(From left to right) Bill Jackson, Dane Owens, Maurice Simpson, Connie Hardeman, Joe Pendergast, Tony Bivens, and Carol Warren discuss the status of one of the projects the committee has taken on this year.

address for all District Office employees and all employees; (6) Develop Standard Operating Procedures for e-mail messages and hardcopy correspondence to all employees.

All the recommendations were approved by the Project Review Board (PRB) and are now being implemented.

For this year the EIEC has taken on two more issues in the Federal Building: air quality in and the maintenance contract.

Seek Growth Opportunities

"We have two different things we are going to be looking at this year," said Warren. "We divided our committee into two different groups. One group is looking at air quality in the building and John Tibbels has already sent out a note asking for information on the air quality. The other group is looking at the cafeteria and the cleaning contract and trying to determine what we are paying for and what are we getting for our money."

The air quality issue was identified as a major concern on the employee survey, according to Hardeman and is not a new issue.

"We first requested a copy of the contract between Meridan and GSA for their services to see how often they are suppose to be vacuuming carpets and dusting and other things," said Hardeman. "The next thing will be to do a check to see how often they are actually doing those things. On the cafeteria, we decide to look at this before the cafeteria closed to see how we could improve that. Now we are to

try to come up with what we think will work and make those recommendations to GSA."

Members of the committee are: Tony Bivens, Steve Money maker, Connie Hardeman, Todd Yann, Debra Grogan, George Grogan, Joe Pendergast, Yvonne Hamilton, Sylvia Brown, Gloria Cartwright, Mary Hayeland, Shirley Cherry, William Page, Curtis Malone, Laura Artis, Bill Jackson, Dane Owens, Sandy Bennett, Tina Sams, and Carol Warren. Also, Ed Morris and Steve Barker are technical consultants to the committee.

"I'm more there as a facilitator," said Warren. "The team is really doing the hard work to find solutions to these problem for the benefit of the District." □

DAPS

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Simpson, Mike McGee and contractors Jerry Morrow, who retired from DAPS last year, and Rachel Dorris, who just joined DAPS to assist with administrative duties.

"If you need assistance, estimates or RUSH work, please contact us at: (615) 736-5643. Anything that we can do to help the Corps, we are going to do," said Simpson. "If it means staying late or coming in early that is fine, because we know our customers have deadlines, too. We don't mind doing whatever it takes to get a job out for the Corps or any of our agencies. However, Mike and I do have a special place in our hearts for the Corps because we used to be part of them." □

Mousetail Landing Gets Protection

by Steven Foshee and Dave Treadway

Mousetail Landing State Park near Linden, Tenn., will soon receive erosion protection from the hungry Tennessee River.

According to Corps Account Executive Lanita Bonds, some of the benefits of the underway include increased safety for public visitors to the Park, enhanced recreational and historical site preservation, and reduced siltation in a navigation channel.

"But perhaps the most important benefit," said Lieutenant Colonel Pete Taylor, Nashville District Engineer, "is the leadership and team effort of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Bureau of State Parks and the Corps of Engineers. As agencies working together, we can resolve safety issues and preservation concerns of this Native-American burial site. These are noble objectives that will leave a lasting legacy of our efforts for generations to come."

Seek Growth Opportunities

Bonds said, "The Continuing Authorities Program Section 14, Streambank Protection, Flood Control Act of 1946, allows the Corps to assist local governments with planning, designing and constructing stream bank protection to halt erosion where it is threatening publicly owned facilities." Current regulations allow bank protection projects at sites that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register and/or equivalent state registers.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will sponsor the construction project and fund the required 35 percent cost-share. Total cost of the project is expected to be \$366,000, with the state contributing \$128,100 in matching funds.

Severe erosion at the Park has toppled banks at this 100-year-old site, which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because of existing ancient Indian burial grounds. Rob Karwedsky, archeologist, Environmental Analysis Section, explained "The initial importance of the site was stated in terms



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo
A proposed area at Mousetail Landing will be stabilized with rip-rap to protect the Indian artifacts found at the site.

of its great depth, with archeological materials being recovered from the surface and below to a depth of some four meters, or nearly thirteen feet; there is now some indication that the site may extend even deeper. The site may contain a continuous record of prehistoric Native American occupation in the region from their earliest presence in North America to the most recent."

The erosion from the mighty Tennessee River is not the only enemy facing Mousetail Landing State Park. Relic

hunters digging into the exposed riverbanks for artifacts make the problem worse by hastening the erosion process.

As part of the project, Riprap (stone) will be placed along 900 feet of the exposed shoreline. Excavation activities will be monitored to minimize the disturbance to the existing burial grounds and other eroded areas.

Corps officials attended a celebration at the site in early November and signed a Project Cooperation Agreement with TDEC on Dec. 9. Construction is expected to begin in mid-February after all Federal and non-federal funds have been received. After completion, the project will be transferred to TDEC.

Mousetail Landing flourishes as a favorite recreation area for fishermen, skiers and campers and teems with an abundance of wildlife. Facilities at the Park include a main 25-site campground, which has a modern bathhouse, laundromat, and electricity and water hook-ups to 19 of those sites. An additional primitive campground was designed with 16 sites along the banks of the Tennessee River. A large screened-in pavilion is provided for groups and special events. Mousetail landing offers numerous recreation opportunities and scenic limestone bluffs that overlook the Tennessee National Migratory Wildlife Refuge. □



Erosion has undermined the riverbank along the historic Mousetail Landing. The Nashville District is working with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to protect the historic value and environmental integrity of the area.

District Workshop Targets Tools for Account Executives Team

Story and Photos by Dave Treadway

Nashville District established the Account Executive Program last year as the lead element of its marketing team. In that role, 11 account executives were charged with the responsibility as the primary individual to seek new business in a specific geographic area. Those assigned areas were aligned by watershed, political, and operational boundaries.

The newest account executives have been working hard to become familiar in their new role, which is in addition to their primary duties, and gathered January 21 for a workshop at J. Percy Priest Lake to assess progress to date and seek direction for the future. These account executives were joined by Operations Managers and District subject matter experts, the other two groups in the 'marketing triangle'.

Tom Waters, chief, Engineering Division, opened the workshop with a review of the Nashville Business Plan and the District goal to achieve program growth. Wayne Huddleston, Project Management Branch, reviewed what is

expected of each account executive. Dave Day, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, shared details of initiatives Headquarters and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division are working at those levels to bring new business to the 59,000-square-mile area assigned to Nashville. David Hendrix educated the group on the Corps Flood Plain Management Program and how it can be used by account executives to achieve program growth.

Invest in People

But the real value of the workshop, according Account Executive Peggy Harker, responsible for eight middle Tennessee counties in the Cumberland River Basin, came when those assembled broke up into smaller groups and discussed strategies that may help executives identify and assist new and existing customers.

"Brainstorming," said Harker, "helps you think outside the box and ideas become concepts, which develop into plans."

Each group identified "key" customers, explored methods of establishing relationships with individuals who worked for those customers, and developed a plan to systematically liaison with those individuals.

Jay Sadler, responsible for 10 counties in northern Alabama, one in Mississippi that contains the Tenn-Tom Waterway, and nine counties in southern Tennessee just

north of Alabama, put one group's ideas on paper and then served as spokesman when the time came to share those ideas with the other two groups. His presentation received rave reviews.

He and his contemporaries agreed that a customer was anyone who could "show us the money," or essentially come up with the non-federal share of a project's funding. Counties, city mayors, local government agencies, academia, other Federal agencies, and even certain groups or coalitions might prove to be a "sponsor" for a project. The State, in the form of the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), are potential sponsors when their interest leads them to seek out the expertise of the Corps of Engineers.

Sadler then described features of a suggested Liaison Plan, a coordinated method to stay in contact with potential customers. Some could conveniently be contacted at annual events, lock dewaterings, scheduled annual meetings, boat tours, and river inspection trips, while others might require individual phone calls, mailings of printed matter and data calls for potential sponsors. While each customer may have similar needs, the Operations Managers, Subject Matter Experts and Account Executives agreed that liaison should be systematic and continuous with an aim to satisfy customers and develop future projects.

Officials expect the workshop to produce several useful documents: (1) identification of all key customers, (2) a standard Customer Liaison Plan, (3) a PowerPoint presentation each account executive might use to educate potential sponsors about the Account Executive Program and authorities under which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can operate and, (4) identification of potential new projects for FY-2001. The idea, of course, is that potential sponsors know to contact their account executive with the Corps of Engineers when they face an engineering opportunity in their community, town, city, county, state, or region. □



Above: Account Executive Sue Ferguson discusses the merits of potential projects with Tom Cayce (right) and Roger Deitrick Jan. 21 at a workshop at J. Percy Priest Lake.

Right: Account Executive Jeff Linkinhoker puts his group's ideas on paper for later discussion Jan. 21 during a workshop at J. Percy Priest Lake.



Wheeler Lock Keeps Bu

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

Wheeler Lock may not be as well known as its sister lock down the river, Wilson Lock, but it stays busy providing a vital link for navigation.

"We stay pretty busy here," said Gary Bowling, lockmaster, Wheeler Lock. "We aren't as well known as Wilson which is only 15 miles down the river, but we have about the same amount of traffic. During the summer and fall we get a lot of pleasure craft through here in addition to tows."

Wheeler Lock, located at mile 274.9 on the Tennessee River, is

composed of two chambers, a main and auxiliary chamber. The auxiliary chamber was the original lock chamber and was placed in operation in 1934. The main lock was begun in 1960, and placed into operation in May 1963; it has an average drop of 45 to 50 feet. The auxiliary lock is 400 feet long by 60 feet wide. It can accommodate two barges. The main lock is 600 feet long by 110 feet wide. It can accommodate 9 barges.

Wheeler Lock is part of a three dam system, which eliminated the single biggest obstacle to navigation on the Tennessee River, the Muscle Shoals. The other locks in this system are Wilson Lock, 15 miles

downstream and Pickwick Lock, 68 miles downstream.

Although it does not have as many visitors as Wilson Lock just downstream, Wheeler Lock has a good relationship with the local community.

Revolutionize Effectiveness

"The lock is a major contribution to the area," said Dale Young from nearby Rogersville, Ala. "River life is vital to the area and to the local economy. We always feel fortunate when we come down and something is locking through. To us that is really interesting."

One of the unique features at Wheeler Lock is the placement of the discharge area from the lock when it is emptied. The

discharged water flows 570 feet through a tunnel into a protective ring, which is also baffled. This design channels the discharge away from the lock and makes the area safer for boaters and anglers.

"Most of your locks either discharge right below the gate or right behind the wall," said Bowling. "Here we have a tunnel which run underwater from the main chamber out to the discharge area. You also have baffle plates so a fishing boat can be right by it, and it won't bother them. It is a good design. The fisherman like it."

Over the last year, Wheeler has experienced an increase in traffic of both commercial tows and pleasure craft, according to Bowling. "We had 15,344,760



Above: A deckhand from the towboat Edwin L. Kennedy places a rope over the haulage unit at Wheeler Lock in order for the tow to be pulled out of the chamber after being lowered.

Left: A deckhand with the towboat Edwin L. Kennedy opens the door to the elevator which will take him down to the lower end of the lock. This is one of only two elevators at locks in the District, the other one being at Wilson Lock.



sy Providing Vital Link

tons come through here last year; 964,835 tons more than the year before,” said Bowling. “We had an increase of 1,440 barges locking through to 16,844 barges total for 1999, and we also had approximately 2,900 pleasure craft locking through in 1999.”

Although the lock is short one maintenance staff member due to illness, personnel have been able to keep up the preventative maintenance schedule through borrowing labor from other locks and shifting an operator temporarily into a maintenance position, according to Bowling.

“As far as maintenance is concerned we are in pretty good shape,” said Robert Nesbitt, electrician, Wheeler Lock. “As long as we can keep our preventative maintenance up, we will do fine. This is a great lock and I love working here.”

Wheeler Lock may not be as flamboyant as another lock down the river, but it has definitely endeared itself to its community and to its employees, according to Bowling.

“We have good bunch of people here,” said Tony Hendon, lock and dam operator, Wheeler Lock. “We have a pretty close group. We’re all from around this area and enjoy working here. It’s good place to work.”

□



Tony Hendon, lock and dam operator, Wheeler Lock, watches a towboat back away from the lock after putting nine barges into the chamber so that he can close the upper gate.



The design and placement of the discharge area at Wheeler Lock is unique to the Nashville District. The discharged water goes 570 feet through tunnels to exit through protective cap with baffles on it. The design makes it safe for anglers to fish in the area.

Right: Richard Burney, a lock and dam operator, who is temporarily filling the maintenance worker position, squares up pieces of metal prior to welding them.



Partnering for Trail Restoration

by Mark Willis, park ranger, Dale Hollow Lake

Sooner or later, most things that get a lot of use will eventually need some maintenance work. That's true with your automobile, and it especially applies to park trails. The Red Oak Ridge Trail, Dale Hollow Lake's 18-mile equestrian trail, is no exception. The maintenance needs of extensive trails such as this equestrian trail can be challenging, since needed repairs can be numerous, expensive, and spread out over a very large area.

The Red Oak Ridge Equestrian Trail, located near the Tennessee/Kentucky border, continues to grow in popularity with horseback riders and hikers from both states. This meandering horse trail offers spectacular views of Dale Hollow Lake and even primitive camping at certain areas.

In recent years, however, it's very popularity and the forces of nature have combined to create numerous erosion and maintenance problems along this extensive trail.

Seek Growth Opportunities

After reading an article in a local trail guide magazine, Gregg Nivens, conservation biologist at Dale Hollow Lake, contacted Patty Jones of the Upper Cumberland Development District and Joyce Holye, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, in April 1999 to nominate Dale Hollow's Red Oak Ridge Trail for a grant from the Recreation Trails Program (RTP).

Congress has passed legislation that provides \$230 million for the Recreational Trails Program over the next six years. These funds will be divided among the 50 states, and each state will provide funds to government organizations and civic groups for trail development and maintenance work for both motorized and non-motorized recreational activities. Under this program, all grants awarded must have a minimum match of 20 percent with at least five percent of the total project coming from non-federal sources.

Federal property nominated for these grants is usually given precedence over nominations for city, county, or privately

owned projects. Since these funds are used for trail restoration, the winning grant applicants must solicit a broad range of input from different ages and user groups. Other requirements include progress reports which should be placed in local newspapers to keep the community informed and all work must be completed within a three-year term.

The Red Oak Ridge Trail was selected from among 40 projects requesting federal assistance, and was selected based on meeting the necessary criteria and expressing the greatest recreation trail needs.

Dale Hollow Lake equipment and

employee manpower were able to be used as a qualifying-in-kind match, and therefore substituted for the 20 percent minimum match requirement. Nivens next coordinated with representatives of Clay County, Tenn., who agreed to provide the 5 percent commitment of project costs from a non-federal source. Nivens ensured all application requirements were addressed. These requirements included providing information such as cost estimates, maps, photographs, property ownership

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See Restoration

Thoughts from the Trail

Continued from Page 3

Many of our project managers and programmers are busy at this time of year developing budgets for next year and beyond. While it will be months before next year's program is finalized, there are some exciting initiatives in the works that may enhance our ability to provide services to customers. Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently developing recommendations on how to improve certain facets of the Civil Works program. Initiatives being examined include changes to cost sharing for certain authorities; funding to perform entire water basin studies rather than project specific studies; Corps involvement in environmental infrastructure projects to include wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, combined sewer overflows, and water supply; and ability-to-pay relief for disadvantaged communities. While none of these initiatives is a sure thing, Headquarters is working hard on new and better ways for us to use our expertise on water-related issues that affect our communities and nation—good news for our customers and the District.

I can't resist making an unsolicited recommendation for everyone to take advantage of the Dale Hollow Eagle Watch when it occurs next year in late January. Over the two weekends that the event ran this past year, Frank Massa and his staff took out more than 600 folks, including

scout groups and disadvantaged children. My family and I attended on the first weekend and were truly impressed. When we went out, Greg Nivens' piloting enabled us to get within a hundred yards of several eagles—truly majestic creatures. Meanwhile on the deck of the boat, Sondra Haflling, Mark Willis, Jeff Hancock, Larry Brown, Jerry Brown, and Dennis Pealer answered countless questions and kept everyone safe and relatively warm and dry. Frank and his staff clearly love what they do and do it very well.

I'd be remiss if I didn't finish my comments this month with a thunderous "How 'bout them Titans?" Yes, it's hard to believe that football season is over, but did we have a great year or what? For the three of you who aren't avid Titans fans, you have to admit that it was fun watching how the community (and District) came together to root for the hometown team. While I missed the District pep-rally, I understand that the competition came down to an overtime, sudden-death, instant replay decision. After close consultation, our officials (Carol Warren, Dave Eliskovich, and William James) awarded the coveted most enthusiastic fan awards to Gail Floyd and Janie Billingsley, and Frank McBride was the named the best adorned fan (in a Rams costume, no less). Now that football is over, guess it's time to turn our sights toward warm weather and other outdoor activities.

Until next month, take care of each other and "Lead the way, Nashville." □

A Letter From Jim Baber

Dear Corps Family,

I wanted to tell you how touched our family has been by the kindness and generosity that has been shown to us by *all* of you.

When Chris was in at Thanksgiving, he picked out his room in our new home (mind you it isn't completed), but that didn't stop Chris. He chose this one room that overlooks the back part of our "farm". (Up here in the Bluegrass area, if you own more than five acres, you have a farm.) You also have to declare a crop to be grown, we chose Christmas trees. Chris thought this was quite funny that his parents were now Christmas tree farmers. After he chose his room. I told him where the trees were going to be planted. He was quite taken by the beauty of this particular creek that runs by our land. Chris named the segment of creek through our farm as "Chris' Creek". It was so nice having him in for the holidays, knowing we wouldn't see him for Christmas. I wish I had known it was our last time to see him.

We are planning to plant another evergreen tree or two and plant them in front of Chris' window. I think he would have liked that.

After the funeral, we invited those who had attended to come out to our "incomplete home" for the planting of our first Christmas tree – Chris' tree. It stands proudly in the front of our home to remind us all that this is Chris' earthly home. And I hope someday the rest of you and the ones who were there will come back to see it. I want to thank those of you who were able to come out and "celebrate" Chris' new life as well as give tribute to the soldiers that were still in Kuwait. I especially want to thank several of my corps family who came to the funeral. From the attendance from the Nashville District at the funeral I

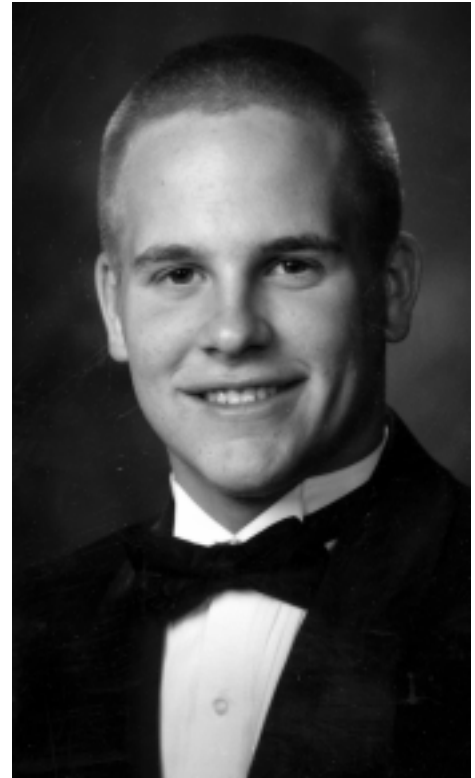
should probably also apologize to the commander for shutting the District down for a day. So many of you attended and my family and I really appreciate you coming and offering your support. I wish I had been able to talk with all of you.

To the "A" team (you know who you are) who came up and came to the "farm" and my brother's house to give support and keep me (and my family) remembering that Chris liked smiles and laughter, thanks. Thanks seems so insignificant compared to my appreciation. I don't know how else to express my appreciation. Also thanks for coming up to "check on" me and holding a staff meeting to let me know my friends care and offer continued support at a really difficult time. I also want to thank the District for allowing Major Haggerty to be my casualty assistance officer. We did not have a good experience with the officer that was originally appointed and Major Haggerty has been Godsend to get us information and the help we so desperately needed.

Chris touched so many lives. Perhaps it made us all realize how fragile life is. So many of you knew him even as a small child and saw him blossom into a young man. He had a quality, that sparkle, the charm, the good looks. He loved to tell stories. His particular interest was history.

The Army delivered his belongings to us a week ago and while we were sorting through what little he had, we found an old history book and a beautifully drawn picture of that creek (Chris' Creek) that he fell in love with when he was home at Thanksgiving. He had a picture of it in his breast coat pocket in his jacket.

Special people touch our lives in everything they do and leave us changed long after they have gone.



Chris Baber

The gifts they gave us can become a part of who we are, a legacy of beauty that lives on. A beautiful life has been lived upon the earth. We are richer for having known him.

Our hearts are so broken that at times we don't know where to begin picking up the pieces. It does give us comfort knowing that we have such wonderful people like you praying for us. I ask that you will continue, please. Closure won't come anytime soon, considering the new twist in this tragedy.

I do know that every one of you at one time smiled because of Chris either by him directly or by the effect he had on me. Perhaps you smiled because of this letter. If so, I know that Chris' mission in life has been accomplished, again.

Again, thank you friends, from our hearts.

With love,

The Babers

Mary Jane, Jim, Jaime, Tom –
And Chris

Lake Barkley Environmental Success Story

*Story and Photos by Steven Shaw,
Environmental Protection Specialist*

The last of the dented underground storage tanks (UST's) were finally strapped onto the trailer. The tanks would end this day far from the place where they had spent the past sixty years on Corps property. A recycling center in Hopkinsville, Ky., would clean any fuel waste from their shells. The tanks would then be shredded into scrap metal and shipped to the reprocessing center.

The UST's had been placed in service sometime between 1940 and 1950 at a small gas station and motel next to a tractor truck repair business on the outskirts of Cadiz, Ky.

Dating from a time when gas tanks were put in the ground and promptly forgotten. These tanks had survived the business they had served by more than forty years.

In a few minutes the truck pulling the trailer loaded with the UST's started up and the tanks were gone. But just as the work at the recovery site was not yet complete, neither is the story of the events that brought the UST's and Barkley's Resource Office personnel to this point.

The request to lease the area as part of a walking trail had seemed a routine matter when the City of Cadiz approached the Lake Barkley Resource Office. Greg Smith, park ranger, with responsibility for dealing with real estate matters in Cadiz contacted real estate personnel at the District Office.

The Real Estate Division started its review of the tracts of land involved in the City of Cadiz request. The area the city requested had been purchased by the Corps for purposes of constructing the Lake Barkley project in 1958.

During early construction while land acquisition for the project was underway, the buildings and the tanks were located on the tracts and used by Corps employees. When construction was completed the buildings were demolished but the tanks were left in place. In the time between acquisition of the land and destruction of the buildings, the UST's were never removed and forgotten over time.

Real Estate personnel noticed the absence of any documentation on UST's



A contractor from MacIntosh and Associates, Inc., of Paducah, Ky., performs a geophysical survey to find the underground storage tanks (USTs) in Cadiz, Ky., near Lake Barkley.

being removed from the requested area and notified the project.

Barkley's resource personnel searched local records and talked to long term residents in an effort to establish how many UST's might have been left in place. The existence of the UST's was fairly certain but their locations were not.

In November 1998 Steven Shaw, environmental protection specialist, and Angela Knoth, budget technician, developed a solicitation for bids to perform a



A backhoe unearths one of the two underground storage tanks found near Lake Barkley after the oversight was discovered 40 years after the fuel station they belonged to was vacated.

geophysical survey using primarily inductive magnetic methods to locate the UST's. In January 1999, a contract to perform the survey was signed by Wayne Lanier, Operations Manager for the Western Kentucky Area Office, and awarded to McIntosh Associates, Inc., of Paducah, Ky.

Thirty-five years had passed since the buildings on these tracts had been

**Continued on Page 15
See Lake Barkley**



One of the underground storage tanks found near Lake Barkley is put on a truck to be moved to a recycling center.

Carr named Employee of the Quarter for July – Sept. 1999

Emily Carr, civil engineer, Soils Design and Dam Safety Section, Geotechnical Branch, Engineering Division, has been named the Nashville District's Employee of the Quarter for July – September 1999.

Carr was nominated for the award because of her significant contributions to satisfying a very important customer of the Nashville District, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. As technical leader of the Metro Center Levee Project, she consistently provided the leadership needed to accomplish the goals of the District and the commitments made to the District's customer.

According to Warren Bennett, chief, Geotechnical Branch, her coordination and oversight of Architectural-Engineering work to ensure the integrity of the levee were commendable and noteworthy. She developed and implemented a quality control plan that satisfied all current requirements and is a model for other

projects.

Carr has been with the Nashville District since 1983. She has served as project geotechnical engineer on numerous projects, including many high profile projects, and has served as technical leader on several of these projects. Some of her most recent projects include Middlesborough Flood Protection Project, Shiloh Park, Metro Center Levee, Shelby Bottoms, and Muscle Shoals. Carr has also served the District as an equal employment opportunity counselor.

Carr is originally from Tuscaloosa, Ala., and she is a graduate of the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University. She is very active in professional organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). Carr has served as President of the ASCE Nashville Branch and is currently a member of the board of directors.

As an additional duty, Carr has served on the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's FOCUS Group for the past two



Emily Carr

years, one of two representatives from the District. Emily balances her professional life with her other roles as wife to husband Ed and mother to children Daniel and Anna. □

Delong is Employee of the Quarter for Oct. – Dec. 1999

Doug Delong, computer specialist with Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, is the Nashville District's Employee of the Quarter for Oct. – Dec. 1999.

According to Tom Cayce, chief, Programs Branch, Delong consistently



Doug Delong

performs exceptional work. He recently led the technical preparation of Acquisition Strategy briefings for the Commander and developed a consolidated budget report to show branch chiefs the labor and contract costs for every project. He also enhanced his CEFMS database reporting system that is used by managers across the Corps. These firsts for Nashville District provide innovative tools to execute the FY 2000 program.

In addition to supporting his Division, Delong also finds time to assist others in the District with his computer expertise. Recently, he provided technical assistance to several offices in the District, including the Public Affairs Office, assisting in database management of public contacts; the Construction Branch in managing their contract modifications; Engineering personnel with input of water release data from field locations; and the Construction-Operations Division with tracking engineering and design efforts for project improvements.

Delong began his federal career in 1994 with the Nashville District as an Accounting Co-op student in the Budget Branch.

His interest in computers led to a divided assignment between Programs and Project Management Division and Budget Branch in 1995. To further his computer interests, he worked for both the Information Management Branch and the Programs and the Project Management Division in 1996. Upon receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (Accounting) in May 1996 from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Delong was hired as a full time employee in the Project Management Branch working as a computer specialist. He continued his education receiving a Master's in Information Systems/Accounting with an emphasis in Information Systems from MTSU in 1999.

Delong is an avid sportsman enjoying hunting, mountain biking, fishing and soccer. He is an active member of the Faith Baptist Church and participates in their athletic programs for youth. He is a regular blood donor to American Red Cross and is near his one-gallon milestone. He and his wife, Tammy, live in Murfreesboro, Tenn. □

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

... Olga Beddingfield, who has just been selected as the Power Plant Superintendent, Cordell Hull Power Plant. She is replacing Shirley Jones who retired in December.

... Gordon Craig who was selected for a promotion back to U.S. Army Audit Agency.

... Zan Blackburn, office assistant at J. Percy Priest Lake Resource Manager's Office, whose daughter, Jennifer Blackburn, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree of Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Memphis on Dec. 18.

... Diane Frost, realty specialist, Real Estate Division, whose daughter, April, graduated on Dec. 18 with honors from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. She and her husband are planning to be missionaries after attending Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California. April worked here as a student aid in Logistics in the summer of 1995.

... Cayce Tiesler, senior electrician at Cheatham Power Plant, who competed in the "Tour De Tucson" of Tucson, Ariz., on Nov. 20, a 113-mile bicycle road race. He finished in 5 hours 15 minutes and raised over \$3,000 for the Leukemia Society of America.

Wedding Bells for...

Patricia W. Cherry, RE-A, will marry Owen K. Cartwright in May

April Frost, daughter of Diane Frost, Realty Specialist in the Real Estate Division, was married to James Brian Bunn of Humboldt, Tenn. on Aug. 7, 1999.

Baby Brigade...

Brigitte Rugare, the secretary in Planning Branch, is a grandmother for the twelve time! Gina Maria Rugare, born Dec. 12 to son Phillip Rugare and wife Anne, is a beautiful blue-eyed blonde. Unfortunately, little Gina has been born with a life threatening disease called Krabbes Leukodystrophy. This rare fatal disease affects the nervous system. Gina is now in Duke University Medical center undergoing an umbilical cord transplant, chemotherapy, and a bone marrow transplant to try to treat this deadly disease. Gina has a

website from Duke University Medical Center that gives daily updates on her treatment and progress <http://www.caringbridge.com/ky/ginaswebsite>. To aid in research for the cure of Krabbes Leukodystrophy the Jim Kelly family started the Hunter's Hope Foundation. For further information contact Brigitte Rugare.

Jim Kelly, former quarterback for the Buffalo bills, also has a child, Hunter, who will be three years old on Valentine's Day, who has Krabbes Leukodystrophy.

... Tim and Jennifer Higgs whose a 5lb-10oz baby boy, Jared Prine Higgs, was born on Jan. 7. Tim is an Environmental Engineer in the Project Planning Branch of the Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division.

Sympathy to...

... Jim Baber and family on the death of Christopher Dale Baber. Jim Baber is a contracting officer with the Army Southern Command and former Nashville District team member.

... Victor Young, Construction Representative in the Nashville Resident Office, whose father Charles Young passed away in January.

... John E. Keith, Power Plant electrician A, Center Hill Power Plant, whose father-in-law passed away Jan. 26.

... Craig Shoe, resource manager, Lake Cumberland, whose father, Elmo Shoe, passed away Saturday, Jan. 15.

... family of Mr. Billy Lee Ellison, long-time employee of the Nashville District, who passed away on Jan. 11.

... Joe Young and his family on the death of his mother, Ida Young. Joe Young

is a Mechanic at Barkley Power Plant.

... Eldon Witcher, Resource Manager's Office, Cordell Hull Lake, and Janie Billingsley, Real Estate Division, whose mother, Ethel Witcher, passed away in December.

... Lena Prince, recent retiree, whose husband, Runcie Prince, passed away Jan. 10. Prince was a classifier in the Human Resources Office.

... Robert (Bob) Maples, retired Old Hickory Power Plant Superintendent, whose wife, Mary Maples, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8.

... Linda Adcock, Project Planning Branch, whose father, Doyle "Bud" Hendricks, passed away Dec. 18.

Thank You...

... Jeronica Smith Spurlock Office Assistant, Martins Fork Lake: "I'd like to let everyone know how much I appreciate each one of you. I'm so glad I got to know so many of you. I'm really going to miss working with all of you. I have really enjoyed working for the Corps and that is due to having such great people to work with. So long!"

... Janice Nelson, Old Hickory Resource: "On behalf of myself, William and the rest of my family I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, phone calls, visits, flowers and plants we received upon the recent death of my mother. The outpouring of condolences was amazing in one respect, but William and I have been on the receiving end of the Corps' goodwill, care and concern before and we know we have true and good friends in the Corps family. Thanks again." □

Restoration Continued From Page 10

information, a site plan, as well as an environmental survey.

The final grant award to the Corps of Engineers and Clay County for the Red Oak Ridge Trail was \$43,764. These funds will be used for trail stabilization, drainage, erosion control and signage.

During 1999 the Recreation Trails Program will provide approximately \$1,650,000 statewide for recreation trail

projects. Dale Hollow Lake's successful application with this program was in part due to the close attention to detail in supplying the needed application criteria, as well as the overall logistical coordination by Nivens.

By using the RTP, the partnering efforts of Dale Hollow Lake, Clay County, and the State of Tennessee have resulted in funding an initiative that will ensure the Red Oak Ridge Trail will remain one of Tennessee's most beautiful and safest equestrian trails. □

Lake Barkley
Continued from Page 12

demolished. During that, time the land which lies within the 100-year flood zone of Lake Barkley had become covered with a blanket of small trees. Working through the undercover the contractor located 154 magnetic fields. Forty-two of the fields were strong enough to be marked for examination. The 42 points were resurveyed with the magnetic locator and with metal probes and minor excavations to determine the source of the magnetic anomalies.

The tanks had been out of service more than 40 years well before the January 1974 cutoff for the tanks to be regulated by the Kentucky UST Regulatory Branch or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirements. Barkley's Resource Management personnel along with the WKY/A determined that the tanks should be removed as a "best management practice" to promote good environmental stewardship. In May 1999, the tanks were excavated by backhoe and removed from the project to the recycling facility.

Soil sample analysis was performed on the UST pit area after the contaminated soil had been removed. This time the test indicated that the remaining soil was free of contamination. The UST pit area was closed, leveled, and seeded.

A Closure Application was submitted for the Cadiz Tank Sites. In October 1999, Lake Barkley received a "Clean Closure" certification for the Cadiz sites from the Superfund Branch of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, Underground Storage Tank Program.

The City of Cadiz will soon be reapplying for a license to add the former UST area to their parks program. □

Press Time Bulletin

At press time it was announced that Mike Wilson has been selected as the new Chief of the Design Branch in the Engineering Division.

Calendar

February

Black History Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, American Heart Month, American History Month, National Weddings Month, and National Wild Bird Feeding Month

17	Black History Month Program "Heritage Horizon: the African-American Legacy and Challenges for the 21st Century" starting at 10 a.m., in room A-640.
21	President' Day, Federal Holiday
22	George Washington's Birthday, 1732

March

Spring Month, Academy Awards Month, America Red Cross, Mental Retardation Month, Poison Prevention Awareness Month, Women's History Month, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Month

1	Peace Corps established, 1961
3	National Anthem Day; Star Spangled Banner becomes national anthem, 1931
15	Retiree Luncheon, Piccadilly's Cafeteria, Madison, Tenn. at 12 noon If you are a retiree, please spread the word about this meeting!
17	St. Patrick's Day

April 6

A Farewell Party for Major Hagerty will be held on April 6 at the Old Hickory Country Club in Nashville. All District employees and retirees are invited to attend. Judy Smith and Brigitte Rugare will be selling tickets. Make plans now to attend!

Information for the December calendar must be received in the Public Affairs Office by March 1. Please send email to William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil. Information on events and activities of interest to all District employees is requested from the staff and the field.

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Nashville District begins EAGLE: Employees Achieving Greatness & Leadership Excellence

by Bill Peoples

The Nashville District is about to launch an exciting new developmental module - the EAGLE program in April. The District adds this program to the already very successful Leadership Development Program (LDP) and will begin accepting applications for this program in March.

"Employees have leadership abilities at all levels within our organization so we adopted the name Employees Achieving Greatness & Leadership Excellence or EAGLE," said Vicky Caldwell, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, and a member of the EAGLE program team.

The EAGLE program's main objective is to create an effective environment for teamwork at the District and is focusing on individual and team member skills. The Employee Survey conducted in 1998 identified a need for training for employees to assist in the development of basic skills.

The program will be open to permanent and seasonal employees, both full and part-time. "We are going to be looking for applications in March," said Maj. Robin Hagerty, deputy district engineer. "It's a nine-month, part-time program. It will start

in April and end in December so that seasonal employees can participate."

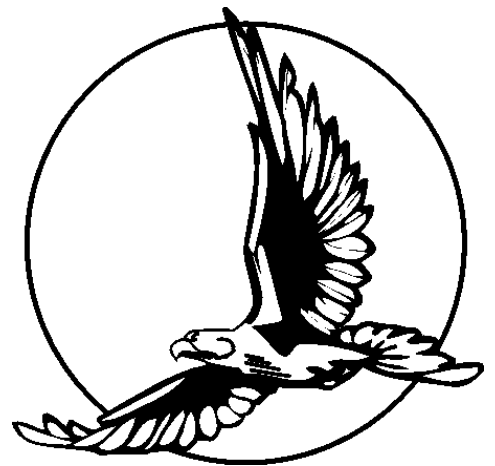
Participants will attend training classes an average of two days a month and complete independent study requirements. Training resources will include the District and Division, Union, CPOC, local university and Fort Campbell.

"There are four components to the program. They are district orientation, generic skills, which includes stress management, interviewing techniques and other basic skills, career management, and leadership skills," said Caldwell.

The program is part of the District's overall development program because it will give participants knowledge on individual, team and leadership skills. This new knowledge and skill will make participants more effective team members, according to Hagerty. "Participants who develop these skills can share them with their team and help the team move forward by being an informal leader," said Hagerty.

Invest in People

The selection process is still being finalized by the committee tasked with implementing the EAGLE program. "We want to be fair in the selection process," said Caldwell. "We want all employees to



know that the program is open to anyone interested, but there are limited spaces. I would encourage all employees interested in self-development to apply."

For those interested in applying more information will be published soon through normal distribution regarding application procedures and deadlines, according to Hagerty. "We want the EAGLE program to provide participants with tools to make them a better employee," said Hagerty. "By improving themselves, they ultimately improve how they do their job and are better employees because of it." □